



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

A CORRESPONDENT, in a former number of your Magazine, inquired why culinary, or room fires, were apt to burn less brightly, and to be extinguished from the action of the sun's rays on them? A writer in a subsequent number expressed his opinion, that the fact was not correct. On lately reading Notes on the West Indies, by Dr. Pinkard, an ingenious and interesting work, I met with the following account. The reasoning on the phenomenon of light appeared to me satisfactory. I recommend it to your Correspondents, and to such of your readers as may be interested in such inquiries, and without further comment I subjoin the extract giving an account of the appearance of a burning wood on the coast of Demerara, in South America.

"As we returned in the evening, we witnessed a very grand and brilliant scene, from the burning of part of the forest, in order to clear an estate for cultivation.

"The trees were consuming with great rapidity, and from the fire increasing in brightness as the evening closed in, it formed a most splendid and imposing spectacle. The Major observed to us, that this improvement of the picture was not the mere effect of viewing it through the surrounding darkness, it being a fact very generally known in this country, that when any part of the woods are set on fire, they burn with greater rapidity during the night than in the day-time. From the greater strength of the breeze throughout the day, this might seem improbable; but that fires do burn weaker in strong light, is a fact not unknown to the lowest kitchen-maid, who in summer closes the shutters (as she says) to keep the sun from putting out the fire. Still it cannot be considered that it is the particular property of the sun to prevent bodies from burning. Perhaps your chemical reading will furnish you with an explanation of the fact, from the known tendency of light to preserve oxygen in its gaseous state, and to prevent the decomposition of the atmospheric air, which is so essential to combustion. The fire appeared very beautiful, and might be seen to the

distance of many miles. It arrested our attention for a considerable time, and we contemplated it as an object of grandeur and novelty."

A GLEANER.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

*To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lennox, &c. lord lieutenant general and general governor of Ireland.*

*The second Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the state of all Schools on public or charitable foundations, in Ireland.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WHILE the undersigned Commissioners for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purpose of education, and into the state and condition of all schools on public and charitable foundations in Ireland, beg leave to report to your grace the result of our inquiries into the present state of the schools of Navan and Ballyroan, of private foundation.

The schools of Navan and Ballyroan were founded by Alderman John Preston of the city of Dublin, who in the year one thousand six hundred and eighty-six, executed a deed, conveying the lands of Cappaloughlin in the Queen's county, containing about seven hundred and ninety acres, and which he then estimated at about eighty pounds per annum, to certain persons, their heirs and assigns for ever, in trust, to pay a schoolmaster of the Protestant religion, resident and living in the town of Navan in the county of Meath, the yearly sum of thirty-five pounds; and also to pay a like schoolmaster, resident and living in the town of Ballyroan in the Queen's county, the yearly sum of twenty five pounds; and also to pay the sum of twenty pounds yearly to the hospital of king Charles the 2d, in Oxmantown, Dublin; the nomination of the said schoolmasters to be in his eldest son, and his heirs male, and the trustees and their heirs, or the major part of them for ever; and in case of the rents of the said lands increasing, the overplus to be disposed of, by the same persons or the major part of them, for the convenience of the said schools, or such

other pious uses as the same persons, or the major part of them, shall from time to time appoint.

It appears that the lands belonging to this endowment were let in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, under an order of the court of chancery, for twenty-one years, at four hundred and thirty-one pounds eight shillings and nine pence halfpenny, per annum; and that the disbursements for each school, as settled in the year 1776 by a decree of the then chancellor, Lord Lifford, were as follows:

FOR NAVAN SCHOOL.			
Salary to the master . . . .	105	0	0
Ditto to the usher . . . . .	40	0	0
Ditto to a writing-master . . .	15	0	0
Rent of school-house . . . .	38	10	0
Premiums . . . . .	4	11	0
	<hr/> £203 1 0		
FOR BALLYROAN SCHOOL.			
Salary to the master . . . . .	75	0	0
Ditto to the usher . . . . .	35	0	0
Ditto to a writing-master . . .	15	0	0
Rent of house* . . . . .	11	0	0
Premiums . . . . .	4	11	0
	<hr/> £140 11 0		

By referring to documents laid before the former Commissioners for inquiring into the state of schools in Ireland, it appears, that a Mr. Jones had been appointed agent and receiver of the rents of the lands about the year 1764, that in the year 1765 the lauds had been let for six hundred and ninety-two pounds seventeen shillings and six pence; but that previous to the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, they had fallen to so low a rent as three hundred and eighty-three pounds sixteen shillings and eight pence: and in the year 1784 they were set by a master in chancery for two hundred and eleven pounds per annum, which lease was broke the same year by the chancellor.

No increase appears to have been made before the year 1776 to the allowances of the masters, and a considerable saving was reported by the agent to have accrued, of which eight hundred and seventy pounds had been put to interest, as he alleged, on good security. But this sum, to-

gether with the further savings from the year 1784 to 1793 (when Mr. Jones was removed, on an application from Mr. Preston to the then chancellor Lord Clare) and a sum of above two thousand pounds of arrears of rent, and other losses by tenants, has been irrecoverably lost to the charity, Mr. Jones having since his removal died insolvent, and without any property that could be attached. It further appears that upwards of two thousand eight hundred pounds of the funds of this charity had been consumed in law expenses, incurred by suits in chancery concerning the right of appointing to the schools. The affairs of this charity are still before that court, where it is a perpetual cause, but not now attended with any expense, except on settling the accounts, which is now done annually by the present agent, M. L. McCausland, esq. and, as he states, at a very trifling cost.

The lease of the school lands made in one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, having expired in one thousand eight hundred and five, the lands were new set by order of the court, from May, one thousand eight hundred and six, to the highest bidder, for twenty-one years, at the annual rent of fourteen hundred and sixty-five pounds fifteen shillings. No new application of this great increase of income has yet been made; a balance of four hundred and thirty-one pounds fourteen shillings and one penny being stated by the present agent to have been due to his father, the late receiver, at the expiration of the former lease, for money paid by him in advance on account of the salaries of the masters, and other expenses of the schools; this balance it appears would be paid off by the first half-year's rents, due in November last, which had not yet been received. From that time there will be an annual surplus of nearly one thousand pounds.

#### NAVAN SCHOOL.

It appears that the reverend Joseph Preston was appointed master of this School in March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, by his brother (now Lord Tara) and Lord Ludlow. He held the appointment till within a month of the time of his examination before the Commissioners, but never

\* This is now increased to £28 8 9.  
BELFAST MAG. NO. XIV.

discharged the duties of it in person. His usher, the reverend Mr. Toomey, has been the ostensible master, and has resided in the school-house since the year 1794; he has regularly received the usher's salary of £40 per annum, and for the last year has also received the writing-master's salary of £15, there being no boys at the school, as he states, who learn to write. He has only five scholars, all Protestants, and never had more than seven. The school-house is not capable of accommodating boarders, and is in but indifferent repair. It appears from the evidence of the reverend Doctor Beaufort, that the corporation of Navan in the year 1776 made a grant under their seal of thirty acres of the commons of Navan to the school, on which it was proposed, that a school-house should be erected out of the savings of the endowment: the loss of those savings, and the other instances of misconduct and mismanagement of the funds, may well account for this grant never having been actually fulfilled and being still withheld. Since the resignation of Mr. Preston, the reverend Francis D. Hamilton was appointed master by Lord Tara, on the 30th June 1807. It does not appear to us, that he either intends to discharge the duty of the school in person, or has ever been engaged in such a duty; nor indeed in its present state, is there *any* employment for him, or *sufficient* for the usher, who appears to us to be both willing and able to instruct a greater number than have ever been under his tuition. We are of opinion, notwithstanding, that an effective classical school might be established at Navan, and would be highly advantageous, if the grant of land by the corporation were carried into effect; if the surplus of the new appropriation to be made of the endowment were to accumulate as a fund for building thereon, and a master properly qualified placed at the head of the establishment. But whether these measures should be found practicable or not, it appears to us that a respectable English school should be immediately established, under a master with a liberal salary, who should be capable of teaching mercantile, arithmetic,

geography, and other useful branches of education for the middling classes, and should be obliged to teach the poorer children at very low prices, as the reason stated for there being no writing scholars at present in the school, was, that they could be taught for less, elsewhere, viz. in a Catholic seminary.

#### BALLYROAN SCHOOL.

The present master of Ballyroan school is the reverend Joseph Preston, who was appointed to it in July 1794, by his brother, now Lord Tara. He has never discharged the duty of the school himself, any more than his predecessor, a Mr. Hood. An usher employed by the latter, kept the school, and was continued by Mr. Preston. Upon his death, about two years ago, no new usher was appointed, but the school was kept by the writing-master, who appears to have received the usher's salary, but to have been wholly unqualified for the office. Another usher, Mr. Arthur Hutchinson, has been lately appointed, whom we have examined, and find to have been employed as a classical teacher in other schools, and believe to be moderately well qualified; he is to receive the salary as usher, of £35, and the profits of the children's tuition. The number at present in the school is stated to be about fifty, the greater part Roman Catholics, of whom eleven are learning Latin. The rate of tuition depends on the circumstances of their parents; the highest is half a guinea per quarter, the lowest half a crown: but there are seven or eight who are taught *gratis*. The writing-master is stated to teach accoupts, mensuration, and other branches of mathematics; the usher states that he reads prayers every morning to the Protestant scholars, and teaches them Dr. Man's catechism. Mr. Preston has visited the school five or six times since his (the usher's) appointment, and supplied the children with books. The rent of the school-house, which is tolerably large, but thatched, is £28 8 9, and is paid with the taxes, out of the funds of the charity.

We need not observe to your grace on the shameful abuses in these two establishments; which, however they

may have occasionally been inquired into, and in some instances corrected by the court of chancery, appear to us to require a more efficient and particular superintendence. The masters salary for both schools, amounting to 180*l.* per annum, has been received for thirteen years by a gentleman who never taught a single scholar in either; and though there is no reason to apprehend any mismanagement of the funds by the present agent, and though the last lettings of the lands appears to have been conducted with proper attention, we are of opinion that the present situation of the concerns of this charity, under the direction of the court of chancery (before which they were first brought by an information filed in the year 1735, and in which court they are still, as already stated, a perpetual cause) is not favourable to an active and sufficient controul over the conduct either of the agent or the masters, and other persons employed in the schools.

*Council Chm. July 23, 1807.*

(Signed) W. ARMAGH. (L.S.)  
 GEO. HALL PROVOST. (L.S.)  
 JAS. VERSCHOYLE. Dean of  
           St. Patrick's (L.S.)  
 JAS. WHITELAW. (L.S.)  
 WILLIAM DISNEY. (L.S.)  
 R. L. EDGEWORTH. (L.S.)

*(A correct copy.)*

J. CORNEILLE, Sec. to the Commissioners.

*To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, lord lieutenant general and general governor of Ireland, &c.*

*The third Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the state of all Schools on public or charitable foundations in Ireland.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

**W** E the undersigned commissioners for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purposes of education, and into the state and condition of all schools on public and charitable foundations in Ireland, have thought it necessary to prefix to our report upon the present state of "the Protestant charter schools," some account of the origin, object, and progress of those schools, as well as of their conduct and management,

which we therefore beg leave to submit to your grace in the following statement:

The charter for establishing Protestant schools in Ireland, was granted by his late Majesty, George the second, in the year 1733, on the petition of the principal nobility, clergy and gentry of Ireland, setting forth the gross ignorance, disaffection and want of civilization that prevailed among the Popish inhabitants, who in the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, were stated as far exceeding the Protestants in number; and praying the incorporation of a society for establishing and maintaining a sufficient number of English Protestant schools in proper situations, as one of the most effectual means of converting and civilizing the Irish natives; and in which the children of the poor might be instructed *gratis* in the English tongue, and the fundamental principles of true religion and loyalty. The charter, after reciting the above particulars, proceeds to nominate and appoint the persons who are to compose a society incorporated for erecting, maintaining and supporting, in such places as they shall judge to be most convenient and necessary, such and so many English Protestant schools as they shall think proper, with power to appoint fit persons to be school-masters and school-mistresses of the same, who shall instruct the children of the Popish and other poor natives in the English tongue, in the principles of the Protestant religion, in reading, writing and arithmetic, and such other parts of learning as to the society shall seem meet, and bring them up in virtue and industry, and cause them to be instructed in husbandry and housewifery, or in trades or manufactures, or other manual occupations; for which the society are to provide them with all necessary utensils and materials, as also with bibles and common prayer books, and other proper books, and to give them encouragements by providing clothes, diet, and lodging, for such of them as to the society shall seem meet, until they shall judge them fit to be put out to trades or services, or other employments; and to allow the masters and mistresses such yearly wages or